Procurement of defence equipment is made by the Government from various indigenous as well as foreign sources to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces. The import option is exercised when it is necessary to procure the items within a definite timeframe on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and normally when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously within a specified timeframe.

Compensation for next of kin of soldiers killed

1415. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers killed during the last five years;

(b) whether Government has given full compensation to the next of kin of those killed during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the list?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A number of soldiers of the Indian army have made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives for the cause of the nation, in the last 5 years. The next of kin of all such battle casualties (fatal) are granted full entitled compensation except in cases where legal cases are filed or necessary formalities are incomplete.

Use of army to tackle naxalism

†1416. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army will be used to tackle the biggest internal problem 'Naxalism' in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any high-powered co-ordination committee has been constituted between Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with naxalism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to commit Army in anti-naxalite operations.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Indigenous technology for Arjun tank and Tejas aircraft

†1417. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engine, gear and arm system used in Indian made Arjun Tank is imported;

(b) if so, the countries from where imported;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.